

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a method of applying a coating including a finely powdered, wear resistant alloy in the form of a finely divided powder having a fusion temperature between 1085 - 1100° C to a surface area of a nodular cast iron part having a melting point of between 1150 - 1260° C in order to produce a coated area having an increased resistance to wear, the method including the steps of:

(a) ~~decarburizing at least said surface area of said cast iron part to an effective depth;~~

(ab) preparing a coating on said surface area of the cast iron part using with said finely divided powder powdered, wear resistant alloy; and

(be) fusing said coating to said surface area of the cast iron part by heating said cast iron part together with said coating to a temperature below the melting point of said cast iron part but sufficient to cause said alloy of said coating to fuse; and

(c) prior to step (a), decarburizing at least said surface area of said cast iron part to an effective depth required for preventing diffusion of carbon into a layer of said coating in contact with said cast iron part to the extent that said diffusion of carbon would lower said fusion temperature of said layer causing said layer to flow during the step of fusing said coating.

2. (original) The method of applying a coating, as defined in claim 1, wherein said coating is applied by a slurry coating process.

3. (original) The method of applying a coating, as defined in claim 2, wherein said effective depth is about 0.25 mm.

4. (original) The method of applying a coating, as defined in claim 2, wherein said effective depth is between about 0.25 mm and 0.5 mm.

5. (original) The method of applying a coating, as defined in claim 1, wherein said coating is applied by a thermal spray process.

6. (cancelled)